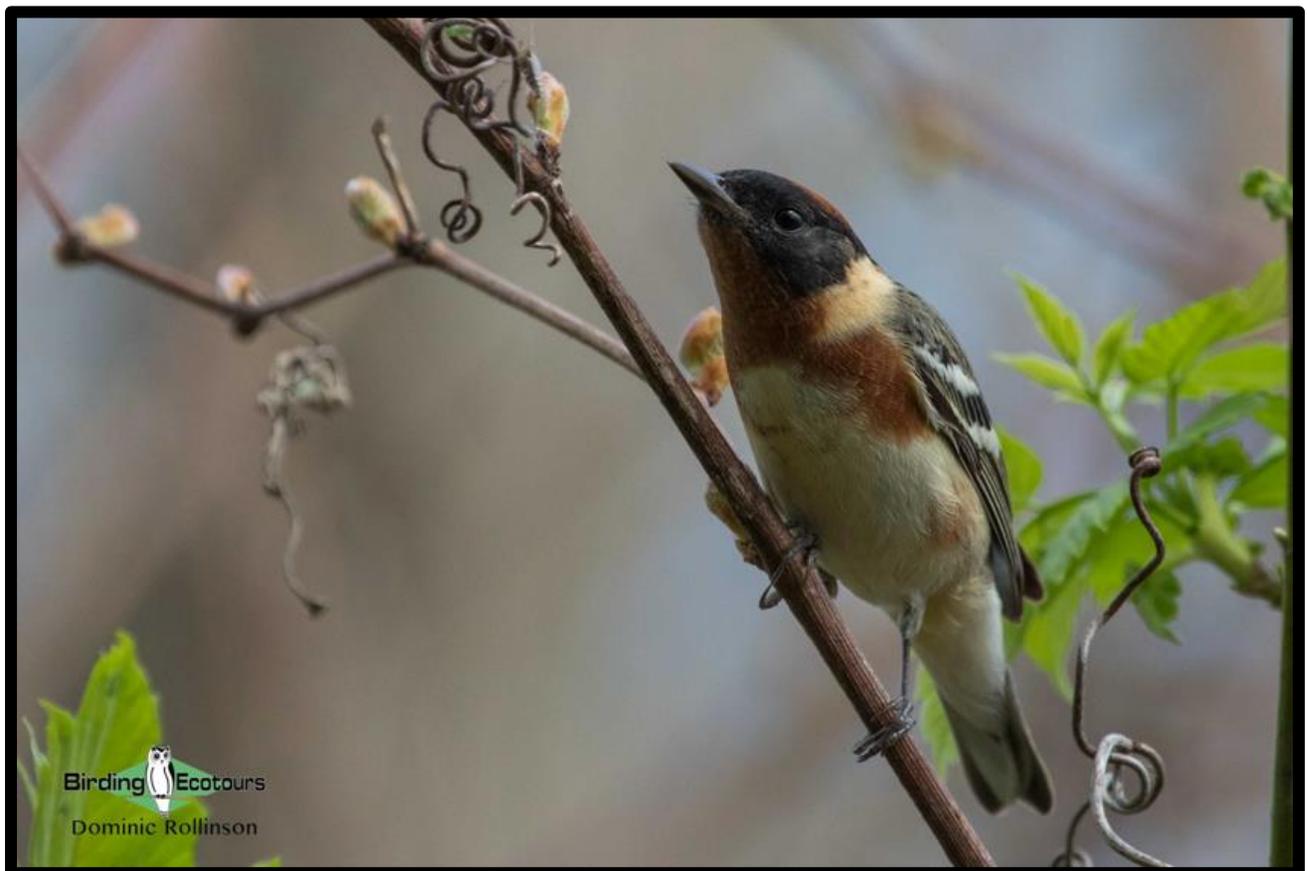




BIRDING TOUR USA: OHIO GENERAL INFORMATION



Bay-breasted Warbler is one of the many beautiful warblers this tour targets.

PASSPORT AND VISA

For US citizens, no visas or passports are required. You will however need to bring along a government issued ID as they are sometimes required for hotels.

Non-United States citizens will require a valid passport to enter the country, and some may require a tourist visa. Please consult with your local US embassy for more details and information. You may need to show your ID/passport at various hotels on this tour.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly encourage you to purchase trip cancellation or interruption insurance in case you have to cancel due to illness or for any other reason, as tour payments are non-refundable as per our terms and conditions. **We advise you to get a plan which covers all your medical care and evacuation back to your country of residence, repatriation, and trip cancellation due to illness just prior, or for any other reason.**

HEALTH

Ohio does not pose any major health risks. Longer drives in the vehicle will be broken up with birding and restroom stops. Temperatures in May are typically pleasant but can be chilly in the mornings and warm during the day, please see 'Weather/Climate' below for more details. Water will be available throughout the tour, please feel free to bring your own reusable bottle to refill throughout the tour as the drinking water here is safe. Ticks and other insects may be present but typically they do not arrive until summer and can be combatted with bug spray (DEET) and appropriate clothing (long-sleeved shirts and trousers).

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Please make sure that you are covered by medical insurance in case of an emergency while on this trip. Without insurance the cost of medical care can be extremely high. Please notify us at the time of registering for this tour of any medical conditions you think we should know about (including allergies, heart conditions, epilepsy, etc.). This will greatly help us to cater to your needs and update emergency services if required.

WEATHER/CLIMATE

The weather in Ohio in the spring is unpredictable and can vary drastically from 30 °F (0 °C) in the morning (even snow, rarely) to up to 80 °F (27 °C) on warm sunny days. Rain, wind, fog, and sunshine are all possible and sometimes all can occur in one day! Layers are the key to Ohio weather and shedding layers as the day progresses is a normal occurrence.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We will be staying at comfortable hotels throughout the tour.

COMMUNICATIONS

Our hotels should have decent access to Wi-Fi throughout the trip and phone service is typically fine throughout Ohio with the potential for some spotty coverage while out in the field, particularly when closer to the Canadian border.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PACE OF TOUR

Most days begin early (7 am or earlier for breakfast) to get out in time for the chorus of new migrant arrivals. We will then be birding up until dinner with some potential evening excursions, so the days can add up and be long and tiring. There will be options however to take certain mornings or afternoons off, if needed.

Ohio is typically flat with nice trails, and a lot of birding can be done close to the vehicle, however due to the long days of birding, the total amount of walking can add up in a day. Of course, there is the option to stay with the vehicle at times and bird from there which should also yield nice species. There are a few longer drives when going between northern and southern Ohio and then up to Michigan. These will be broken up with birding and restroom stops.

WHAT TO BRING

Please kindly read the general list of what to bring on a birding tour, [here](#).

Layers and waterproof gear are always a good idea when preparing for a wide variety of possible weather conditions, and we consider them essential on this tour. We also do recommend bringing Dramamine or other motion sickness medications if you need them as there are long drives in the vehicle. Also, please bring along a face mask (or a few) to ensure we are able to follow local guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic as they will be required in certain areas.

Do not forget – Binoculars, prescription drugs (also bring the generic names for these drugs), toiletries, prescription glasses (and a spare pair), sunglasses, camera, batteries (for electronic equipment and chargers for re-chargeable batteries if required), alarm clock, money pouch, field guide(s), daypack.

Key Documents and Cash – Passports, your travel or health insurance cards, photocopies of which can be carried by the tour leader in case of emergency, Covid-19 vaccine card (or photo/copy), credit cards (see info above). US dollars for drinks, gifts, tips, items of a personal nature, etc., which are not included in the tour cost.

LUGGAGE

There should be enough space for each participant to bring one medium-sized suitcase as well as a personal bag to keep at their seat with them. Please do be mindful with large cameras or tripods, if you choose to bring these along.